

JOB

A PATH THROUGH SUFFERING

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 June 25, 2023

"Miserable Comforters"

Job 4:7, 5:1-6, 6:1-4, 6:8-10, 16:2; John 9:3;

Psalms 42:5, 130:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21



I. Introduction

- A. The two questions that sufferers always feel and propose are the '_____,' question and the 'why' question.
- B. How do you get through the inevitable suffering that will come to you? The answer to that is '_____.'

II. The Counsel of Eliphaz - Bad Comfort

- A. Eliphaz is saying "if you are reaping trouble in your life, you _____ it."
- B. Eliphaz council doesn't grasp the Biblical _____ of things in two areas:
 - a. It denies the complexity of human nature.
 - b. He doesn't grasp the complexity of suffering and the purpose of suffering itself.
- C. As a comforter, we need to go into people's lives with a mixture of truth and _____.

III. Job's Response – Better Comfort?

- A. There are four things that Job does to _____ the suffering:
 - a. Emotional realism.
 - b. Praying.
 - c. Rejects suicide.
 - d. He needs assurance of God's love.

IV. Ultimate Comfort

- A. When Jesus Christ came, he _____ obeyed the law of God.
- B. Our only comfort in life and death is _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *June 26 – July 1, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

How do you bear suffering? How do you get through the inevitable suffering that will come to you? The answer to that is comfort. In the book of Job, Job has three friends who show up and do an absolutely terrible job of comforting. Yet, even by looking at their terrible comfort, we can learn something about the sources of comfort.

Monday: John 9:1-3, Luke 13:1-9

In John 9, Jesus didn't try to sort out who or what was to blame for the man's blindness. Instead, he urged the disciples to look forward to how God's power could work in the man's life. What difficulties and challenges are you facing? How can you open "the eyes of your heart" to recognize and respond to God's power at work in and through you in responding to any type of suffering?

Tuesday: Job Chapter 4:7-8, 5:1-6

How does Eliphaz explain Job's suffering in 4:7-8? Eliphaz's council does not seem to grasp the complexities of life. He is giving a very black and white answer to a situation where there is a lot of gray. How do you comfort those who are going through seasons of suffering?

Wednesday: Job 6:1-4, 8-10

In this chapter Job is responding to Eliphaz. In essence, Job is counseling himself in these verses and he does a better job than Eliphaz. In his response, we see that Job handles suffering through emotional realism, continued prayer, he rejects taking his own life and he has a sense of God's love. Which one of these measures helps you the most get through times of suffering?

Thursday: Psalm 13:1-6

Have you ever felt the level of pain and frustration reflected in the psalmist's opening question: "How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever?" The Hebrew phrase about God "hiding his face" expressed a sense that God had withdrawn divine favor. Are there ways in which you are waiting (patiently or not) for God's favor today? What choices and practices can help you sustain trust in God's unfailing love as you wait?

Friday: II Corinthians 5:11-21

In the Heidelberg catechism, a creed written in 1563, they ask the question "what is your only comfort in life and death?" What would you say is your ultimate comfort when going through seasons of suffering and why?

MOVING FORWARD

Eliphaz's council is completely wrong because he believes the innocent don't suffer, only those who do wrong in God's eyes suffer. This does not line up with God's word. Job gives us some better comfort through his self-council because he shows emotional realism, he keeps praying, he rejects taking his own life and he has a sense of God's love. Although Job's self-council is good council, our ultimate comfort comes in Jesus Christ. When we put our trust in him we find the ultimate comfort.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) how, B) comfort. IIA) planted, B) complexity, C) tears. IIIA) handle. IVA) perfectly, B) Jesus.